

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1-63. (Canceled)

64. (Previously Presented) A method for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, the method comprising:

receiving a message capsule over the forward channel;

calculating a signature from the message capsule at the mobile station; and

comparing the signature with one or more signatures previously stored at the mobile station.

65-81. (Canceled)

82. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for communicating with a mobile station by way of a forward channel in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a base station configured to:

transmit a message capsule over the forward channel;

generate a signature for the message capsule, the signature being generated by hashing the message capsule, wherein the hashing comprises hashing the message capsule to generate a first hash and rehashing the message capsule if the first hash of the message matches a signature of a previous message capsule; and

transmit a signature in a separate signature capsule over the forward channel.

83. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing comprises adding a random value to the first hash.

84. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the rehashing is done if the signature of a previous message capsule was generated within a time period T_{Delta} .

85. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 84, wherein the time period T_{Delta} is larger than the largest allowed sleep time of any mobile station that could be communicated with the wireless communication system.

86. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a sixteen bit value for the signature.

87. (Previously Presented) An apparatus as claimed in claim 82, wherein the hashing is arranged to generate a thirty-two bit value for the signature.

88. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 64, further comprising assigning a value stored in a counter to the signature.

89. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented after a signature is generated.

90. (Previously Presented) A method as claimed in claim 88, wherein the counter is incremented if the message capsule is different than a previously transmitted message capsule.

91-94. (Canceled)

95-132. (Canceled)